APPENDIX F: SUMMARY OF REFERENCED PLANS

INVENTORY OF FEATURES: JEDEDIAH SMITH REDWOODS STATE PARK, DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK, PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK

This document, done by the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 1982 and 1983, summarizes all of information on the natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources of the three state redwood parks known at the time. It was compiled before the preparation of the *State Redwoods General Plan* (1984). The information provides a foundation of knowledge for the development of resource management goals, objectives, policies, and programs. It has served as the basis for general planning and facility development, for development of interpretive programs, and as background information for maintenance and operations. The *Inventory* also functions as a historical document that represents the knowledge that contributed to decision making in the *General Plan*.

BALD HILLS VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Redwood National Park prepared the *Bald Hills Vegetation Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* in 1992. The park is implementing the plan through a combination of prescribed fires and cutting to remove Douglas-fir from 660 acres of Oregon white oak woodlands and 1,700 acres of existing prairies in the Bald Hills area of the national park.

The objective of Bald Hills vegetation management is to maintain the diversity of plants and animals that prevailed in 1850 when Euro-American settlers first moved into the Redwood Creek basin. Since that time, livestock grazing, cultivation, introduction of exotic plants, and fire suppression reduced many of the once dominant native grassland species, and allowed Douglas-fir to encroach on the open prairies and oak woodlands. A long-term goal of vegetation management in the Bald Hills is to increase the size of the remaining prairies by 25%, which would better reflect their extent in 1850.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 1994 Redwood National Park prepared a *Draft Fire Management Plan* and a *Draft Environmental Assessment* on the plan. Following public comment, a *Final Fire Management Plan* and a "Finding of No Significant Impact" were issued in 1995. The plan calls for a program of prescribed fires to create a mosaic of burned and unburned areas, reduce unnatural fuel concentrations, and restore native plant communities. Prescribed fires conducted under the plan will be concentrated in the Bald Hills prairies and oak woodlands, and may include up to 3,000 acres in any one year. Burn prescriptions will define the appropriate climatic and fuel conditions and necessary fire-control personnel and equipment needed to ensure that burns are controlled and confined to the designated burn area.

The plan also proposes that the park's vegetation management program investigate the outcomes and the effectiveness of small burns in other vegetation types, including old-growth redwood forest. In 1995 the assessment began by burning 10 acres of old growth at the base of Elk Camp Prairie on the east side of the Redwood Creek basin to evaluate the effects of fires in old growth.

Finally, the plan requires that all wildfires, whether human caused or natural, be suppressed using techniques that minimize adverse impacts on sensitive cultural and natural resources.

EXOTIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Redwood National Park issued a *Draft Exotic Plant Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* in 1994. The " Finding of No Significant Impact," which served to finalize the plan according to public comment on the draft plan, was issued in 1995. RNSP staff control exotic plant species through a combination of mechanical (physical removal), cultural (attempts to alter human behavior), biological (use of pathogens or ecological succession), and chemical (herbicides) methods. The plan lists target species to be controlled, describes a method for determining whether control will be effective, and assigns a priority for control. Techniques are recommended for controlling the 13 species that are considered to represent the greatest threat to park resources and ecological communities.

1984 REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL PLAN

Completed in March 1984, this plan guides the implementation of the backcountry trail actions proposed in the 1980 *General Management Plan*. The trail plan was designed to keep total trail mileage to the minimum necessary to provide adequate recreational access to the Redwood Creek and Skunk Cabbage Creek areas of Redwood National Park. The plan proposes almost 144 miles of hiking and horse trails, which the plan divides between three planning areas — the Redwood Creek corridor, the east side of Redwood Creek, and the west side of Redwood Creek.

The Redwood Creek corridor consists of Redwood Creek, its riverbars and alluvial flats, and the Redwood Creek Trail. Four trails are proposed for this area:

- Redwood Creek Trail, an 8.2-mile trail between Bald Hills Road near Highway 101 and Tall Trees Grove
- Maple Flat Loop Trail, a 0.5-mile loop trail through Maple Flat beginning and ending on Redwood Creek at its confluence with Elam Creek
- Tall Trees Loop Trail, a 0.7-mile loop trail through Tall Trees Grove that begins and ends at Tall Trees Trail near Redwood Creek
- Redwood Creek Riverbars, an 18.4-mile trail between Redwood Creek trailhead and the intersection of Redwood Creek with the national park boundary

The east side planning area consists of all slopes on the east side of Redwood Creek up to the east boundary of Redwood National Park, plus the lands in the vicinity of Skunk Cabbage Creek, bounded by Davidson Road on the north, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and Orick Hill to the south. Fourteen trails are proposed for the east side planning area:

- East Side Trail, a 26-mile trail between Gold Bluffs Beach and the mouth of Copper Creek
- Forest Renewal Trail, a 0.5-mile trail between Davison Road and Skunk Cabbage Loop Trail
- Skunk Cabbage Loop Trail, a 3.8-mile loop trail that begins where the East Side/Coastal Trail swings south to cross Skunk Cabbage Creek and ends on the East Side/Coastal Trail north of the North Fork of Skunk Cabbage Creek
- Whiskey Forty North Trail, a 0.8-mile trail between Whiskey Forty clear-cut and East Side Trail
- Whiskey Forty South Trail, a 0.5-mile trail between Whiskey Forty North Trail and the East Side Trail
- Wild Ginger Trail, a 2.5-mile trail between the East Side Trail and Redwood Creek Trail
- New Growth Trail, a 2.5-mile trail between the C-Line on Bald Hills Road and East Side Trail
- Miller Creek Trail, a 0.5-mile trail between East Side Trail and the confluence of Redwood Creek and Miller Creek
- Tall Trees Trail, a 1.3-mile trail between Tall Trees parking area and Tall Trees Grove
- Emerald Ridge Trail, a 0.25-mile trail between East Side Trail and Redwood Creek
- Dolason Prairie Trail, a 6-mile trail between a former lumber mill site on Bald Hills Road and East Side Trail, south of Emerald Creek; this trail includes a 0.3-mile loop nature trail
- Gorge Bypass North Trail, a 1.5-mile trail between the East Side Trail north of Airstrip Creek and Redwood Creek downstream form the northern end of Rocky Gorge
- Gorge Bypass South Trail, a 0.8-mile trail between East Side Trail south of Pigpen Prairie and Redwood Creek
- Copper Creek Trail, a 4.6-mile trail between Bald Hills Road and the confluence of Redwood Creek and Copper Creek

The west side planning area consists of all slopes on the west side of Redwood Creek up to the national park boundary. Seventeen trails are proposed for the West Side:

- Half Day Loop Trail, a 5.1-mile loop horse trail that begins and ends at the intersection of the national park boundary and the Redwood Creek levee; the trail takes riders up onto Orick ridge and back
- Full Day Loop Trail, this horse trail incorporates the Half Day Loop Trail and adds an additional 7.3 miles of trail segments
- Three Day Loop Trail, this horse trail uses the same trailhead and portions of the Half Day Loop Trail and the Whole Day Loop Trail but adds an additional 14.1 miles of trail segments
- Halfway Trail, a 9.55-mile horse trail between the intersection of C-13 Road and C-Line, and Bridge Creek
- M-Line Trail, a 2.3-mile horse trail that begins at the intersection of M-Line, G-Line, and M-7 Road and ends either in a horse camp near Redwood Creek or a day use hitching post on the M-Line near Tall Trees Grove
- Bridge Face Trail, a 5.7-mile horse trail between Bridge Creek and the “T” intersection at the lower end of 1850 Road

- Bridge Face Trail, a 1.2-mile horse trail between the "T" intersection on 1850 Road and the confluence of Copper Creek and Redwood Creek
- Bridge Ridge Trail, a 5.8-mile horse trail between the Bridge Face Trail and the intersection of Devil's Creek Loop Trail and Bridge Creek Trail
- Devil's Creek Loop Trail, a 11.6-mile horse trail that begins and ends at the intersection of the Bridge Ridge Trail and Bridge Creek Trail; this trail provides access to the upper half of Devil's Creek watershed
- Elam Creek Trail, a 0.2-mile trail between the horse trail at Elam Creek and Redwood Creek Trail
- Trail A, a 1-mile trail between L-1-4 Road and Redwood Creek Trail near the mouth of Cloquet Creek
- Forty-Four Creek Trail, a 1.9-mile trail between the intersection of the lower portion of Three Day Loop Trail and Forty-Four Creek and Redwood Creek Trail near mouth of Forty-Four Creek
- Trail B, a 1.5-mile trail between the intersection of C-12-1 and G-6 roads and Redwood Creek Trail
- M-Line Hiking Trail, an 0.6-mile trail between the M-Line (horse) Trail at the day use hitching post and Redwood Creek at Tom McDonald Creek
- Bridge Creek Trail, a 7.6-mile trail between the confluence of Bridge Creek with Redwood Creek and Bridge Creek bridge on M-7 Road
- Bridge Ridge Hiking Trail, a 3.2-mile trail between the Devil's Loop Trail and Bridge Ridge Trail
- Devil's Canyon Trail, a 4.3-mile trail between the intersection of 1840 Road and 1800 Road and the intersection of Y-3 Road and Y-Line

1995 DAVISON RANCH DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN

The *Davison Ranch Development Concept Plan* describes facilities for visitor use that will be constructed in and around Davison Ranch and the B-mill deck. The plan calls for 22 miles of new hiking, bicycling, and equestrian trails in the area west of Highway 101, north of Skunk Cabbage Creek, and south of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. A paved trail for hikers and bicyclists will be constructed parallel to Prairie Creek on an old logging road, beginning near the south end of Elk Prairie, running through the B-mill trailhead, and continuing across Prairie Creek to rejoin Highway 101 across from Berry Glen. A trailhead, picnic area, and restrooms will be constructed on the B-mill deck. The large area of asphalt on the deck will be removed, and an old stream channel will be restored. Parking areas will be constructed along both sides of Davison Road east of the Prairie Creek bridge to provide a safe place from which to see elk in the pastures.

1981 WATERSHED REHABILITATION PLAN

This plan, accompanied by an environmental assessment, addresses a rehabilitation program for up to 30,000 acres in the Redwood Creek basin that have been subjected to extensive timber harvest and logging road development. The major objectives of the program are to minimize human-induced erosion and to encourage the return of the area to a mature redwood forest ecosystem. The program described in the plan consists of several interrelated projects to be carried out over 15 years. The projects include erosion control, the planting of forest vegetation, and the removal of roads not needed for access to rehabilitation sites or for future park management. The plan identifies sites for treatment, including roads to be removed, and establishes the priorities among sites.

1983 MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR THE REDWOOD CREEK ESTUARY

This document summarizes the research on the physical and biological functioning of the estuary and presents and analyzes interim and long-term management alternatives for the estuary. The research included seasonal patterns of changes in water quality; determination and comparison of present patterns of inundation, seasonal morphological changes, and sediment sources with historic information; and a determination of abundance, distribution, and seasonal patterns of estuary use by fish. An environmental assessment accompanied the plan to facilitate public input on how the estuary should be managed and/or rehabilitated.